

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are as follows:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) Apparatus for continuously producing a succession of separate elongated siding panels each having a series of longitudinally spaced and integrally connected separate shingle panels with a hook-shaped lower portion and an upper portion defining a mounting flange and a groove for receiving the lower portion of a vertically overlapping panel, said apparatus comprising an endless conveyor supporting a continuous series of rigid mold plates defining shingle cavities and undercut cavities, a die for extruding a continuous sheet of heated plastics material with a generally uniform thickness and with longitudinal upper and lower portions integrally connected by a longitudinal intermediate portion, a guide directing the sheet of heated material onto said mold plates as the mold plates form a moving upper run of said conveyor, said mold plates having vacuum passages for progressively vacuum-forming the sheet into the shingle cavities and the undercut cavities of the mold plates by creating a vacuum within the cavities while the mold plates are moving on said upper run of said endless conveyor, and a reciprocating and traveling forming plug positioned for successively inserting into said undercut cavities as the sheet is moving and being vacuum formed into said undercut cavities for progressively forming a series of integrally connected siding panels.

10. (Original) Apparatus as defined in claim 9 wherein each of said mold plates has upper and lower undercut cavities into which the upper and lower portions of the sheet are progressively vacuum-formed as the mold plates are moving on said upper

run of said conveyor, and reciprocating and traveling forming plugs are positioned for inserting the upper and lower portions of the sheet into said cavities as the sheet is moving with said mold plates on said upper run of said conveyor.

11. (Original) Apparatus as defined in claim 9 wherein each of said mold plates is formed of aluminum for conducting heat quickly from the sheet of heated plastics material.

12. (Original) Apparatus as defined in claim 9 and including a corresponding conveyor slat attached to each of said mold plates on said endless conveyor, and elongated parallel spaced guide tracks receiving said conveyor slates..

13. (Original) A series of elongated siding panels each having a mounting flange and a series of longitudinally spaced and integrally connected separate shingle panels, each of said shingle panels having a hook-shaped lower portion and an upper portion with an undercut groove for receiving the lower portion of a vertically overlapping panel, said shingle panels of each said siding panel having a different configuration and a different appearance than said shingle panels of each of the other said siding panels, said hook-shaped lower portion of each said shingle panel having a straight edge engaging surface, said undercut groove of each of said shingle panel having a straight edge engaging surface, and the vertical distance between said straight edge engaging surfaces of each said shingle panel being the same for all of said shingle panels of all of said siding panels.